The comprehensive guidelines on "Management of Floods" issued by NDMA in January, 2008, *inter alia* provide for preparation of Flood Management Plans at national, state and district levels covering all aspects of the disaster management cycle including the implementation schedule and monitoring system.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Import of edible and inedible oil

† 3854. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is importing edible and inedible oil from abroad;

(b) if so, the names of the countries from where the said oils are being improted alongwith the quantity and prices thereof;

whether it is a fact that there has been a 40 to 60 per cent increase in the prices of edible oils in international market during the last one year and it has affected the domestic market also; and

whether Government would contemplate on the scheme of enhacing the production of oilseeds in the country by increasing the minimum support price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The said oils are being imported mainly from the following countries:—

Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Netherlands, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Ukraine, United States of America.

The value of imports of Animal and Vegetable fats and oils and their products covered under Chapter 15 of ITC(HS) Classification of Export and Import Items during Apr. 07 to Sept. 07 is Rs. 6095.03 crores.

The category and country-wise details are given in the publication 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India; Volume-II (Imports) Annual Number' published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, which is available in the library of the Parliament.

It is true that international as well as domestic prices of edible oils have shown an increasing trend during the last year and it has effected the domestic market also.

The Government has already announced the Minimum Support Price of Rabi and Kharif crops for 2007-08. In order to increase production and productivity and thereby the returns to farmers, besides MSP Schemes, the Government has taken several initiatives like Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers, ensuring timely availability of quality inputs, optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dry land/rain fed farming systems and reforming agricultural markets.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi